



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

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13D SPRINKLER INSPECTION PROCEDURE IN COLD WEATHER (40 Degrees or less)

All residential sprinkler systems are required to be hydraulically tested before they can be approved for use. To meet this requirement, systems must be filled with water, pumped up to test pressure, and must hold this pressure for a minimum of two hours. The minimum ambient temperature of the area where pipe is located shall not drop below 40 degrees at any time there water in the pipe. Depending on weather, this temperature requirement may be difficult to maintain. Due to this concern the following procedure may be used when approved by the Fire Marshals Office on a case by case basis:

IMPORTANT: This procedure may only be used if the National Weather Service (301-936-1212) is predicting temperatures *below* forty degrees for a consistent period (but no more than 48 hours) before the scheduled inspection date.

1. The sprinkler contractor shall contact the Fire Marshal's Office (240-777-2457) to request permission to use the "Cold Weather Testing Procedure".
2. If approved, the sprinkler contractor shall contact the general contractor and advise him of this decision. *Both contractors must agree to this procedure as written in this document.*
3. The scheduled inspection will occur on the previously agreed time.
4. All aspects of this inspection will remain the same, except for the pressure test of the piping. This includes but is not limited to, pipe size, bracing, head location, **insulation**, head spacing etc. The fire inspector will note that this was the type of test conducted on his report, or the sticker he attaches to the plan.
5. Before drywall is installed, water shall be introduced to the pipe and pumped up to test pressure. *The day before this is done, contact the Fire Marshal's Office at 240-777-2457 so this "test date" can be recorded.* At the time of this test, the sprinkler contractor, as well as the general contractor shall inspect and document this test. (See attached document) A copy of this documentation shall be given to the fire inspector at time of final inspection.
6. Sprinkler system shall again be pumped up to test pressure at time of final inspection to be witnessed by the fire inspector.

NOTE: The purpose of this procedure is to try to prevent any delays in the construction/inspection schedule which may be caused by weather. During the actual construction of the sprinkler system the home must maintain minimum temperature requirements to allow for proper curing of the glue.

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Office of Fire Code Enforcement

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